



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1 between lines 1 and 2:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1 between lines 12 and 13:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 13 with the following new paragraph:

There are in use many surface coverings, many of which are made of straight planks with a version of the present invention easily being usable. Some applications, however, require conformity to curved shapes of the covering base. A typical example is teak planked deck of a yacht. Such surfaces have to be of a good, non slip character, and have to be at least fairly unaffected by water and have to look attractive. Wood, such as teak has been used for many years, but such wooden material is in many ways impractical and of relatively short lifespan. Curved wooden surfaces necessitate considerable stressing, preparation like adapting of the wooden ribs to any curved surface, fixing by screws, use of

sealing compound and regular maintenance, especially scrubbing, oiling and varnishing and the use of pollutant, cleaning chemicals on a regular basis and in large amounts on boat, in particular these chemicals drain into the surrounding water. Curved wooden ribs or planks also involve an inherent spring stress requiring a strong fixation, generally using screws or bolts. Further, the new look of a teak deck is lost within weeks, and the whole deck requires major work or replacement in four to ~~sex~~ six years on average.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1 between lines 29 and 30:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3 with the following new paragraph:

The present invention is adapted to suggest a shape conforming surface covering comprising lengths of ribs of mostly the same cross section, but with differing cross sections included within the surface or at its edges or ends as required, of specifically shaped plastic material, which plastic ribs are of such flexibility that then can be ~~made~~ made to follow at least slightly curved surfaces, tight curves being attainable with the use of heat. The lengths of ribs are adapted to be connected edge to edge in various

combinations to form collectively the required size and shape of the surface to be covered. A variation of the invention can be produced with the same material and finish in other cross sections to used for the edges of steps for example, or other functional or decorative applications. Normally a jointing compound must be used on wooden decks, but according to the invention the individual planks and/or caulking strips are malleable, becoming more and more malleable at increasing temperatures. According to the present invention the need for these "later applied" compound along the joints is no longer necessary. The new shapes or curves taken up by the planks or caulking strips become a relatively stress free feature of these planks or caulking strips unless ~~re-adjustment~~ re-adjustment is necessary, whereby re-adjustment can be made by applying heat to the strips, for instance using a hot air gun, hot water, radiant heat etc.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 3, between lines 19 and 20:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 4 between lines 6 and 7:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23 with the following new paragraph:

Both the planks and the caulking strips can be made with different colours, imitating ~~wood~~ wood like teak, mahogany, pine, oregon pine, redwood, etc. For example, the planks may have a colour and lustre imitating the colour and grain structure of a wooden material. The caulking strips preferably are made of another colour than the planks, for instance a black colour imitating the rubber material seams in seamed decks of yachts. It also retains its colour far better than its' natural wood alternative. Moreover, the planks may be made of a plastic or resin material, such as PVC for example, that may include additives for providing UV protection, fire retardants, and natural or synthetic fibres. The planks may be formed with streaks of lines of colour included in the extrusion to further imitate the grain in wood. The planks may be used as a floor surface, a wall surface a boat or yacht deck, floor board in boats and yachts, bath and shower room floors and walls covering, swimming pool surroundings, curved floor planks inside and outside buildings, claddings and covering of many other types of surfaces. The planks may also be partly filled with a rigid material.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with the following new paragraph:

The planks and the caulking strips can be arranged for interconnection in several ways. In figures 5a and 5e is shown that the planks and the caulking strips have straight side edges and are adapted to be connected by glue or by a welding process; figure 5b, c, [[e]] and f illustrate interconnection of the planks and the caulking strips by means of male and female connection means, and figure 5d illustrates an interconnection using overlapping portions of the planks and the caulking strips. Figure 5f illustrates that the planks 12 can be co-extruded with a caulking strip 13, whereby, in the illustrated case, the caulking strip 13 is formed with male connection means 4 and the plank 12 is formed with female connection means 5. Figure 5g shows a co-extruded plank and caulking strip with the male connection means in the caulking strip; figure 5h shows an equivalent co-extrusion in which the caulking strip is formed with female connection means. Figure 5i shows an example of how the upper surface joining profile enables a locking process to take place where the edges are prevented from lifting when the product is assembled, with or without the caulking part of the co-extrusion being under compression upon joining. The male and female connection means are provided in the plank parts, and a caulking strip is applied as a narrow strip on top of a part of the male connection means. Figure 5j shows an embodiment where a section of the plank or of the profiles used in particular applications is filled with foam of a light weight

material. Other examples of profiles with or without foam filling to requirements for edgings, cutting out of shapes etc. to comprises a system or compendium or shapes and profiles are shown in figure 5k (1, 2, 3, 4).

Please cancel the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13 (consisting of the words "12 plank").

Please cancel the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14 (consisting of the words "13 caulking strip").